

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please find below a complete listing of the claims of the application, including their status as effected by the present amendment:

Claim 1. (Original) A transmission device for forwarding aggregate traffic streams towards a destination point, an aggregate traffic stream being comprised of a plurality of packets including respective identifiers allowing to distinguish one packet from another, said transmission device comprising:

- an input for receiving the aggregate traffic streams;
- an output for forwarding the aggregate traffic streams to the destination point;
- a control unit having an input for receiving an acknowledgement message issued from the destination point to notify said transmission device that a certain packet released from said output has been received at the destination point, said control unit being operative to regulate a rate at which packets are released from said output at least in part in dependence upon said acknowledgement message.

Claim 2. (Original) A transmission device as defined in claim 1, wherein said control unit forwards the aggregate traffic stream to the destination point without adding data elements to the packets of the aggregate traffic streams.

Claim 3. (Original) A transmission device as defined in claim 2, wherein said acknowledgement message conveys

information relative to a packet identifier.

- Claim 4. (Original) A transmission device as defined in claim 3, wherein said control unit includes a data structure, said control unit being operative for recording the identifiers of packets released at said output for forwarding to the destination point in said data structure, said control unit being operative to process said data structure in conjunction with successive acknowledgement messages received from the destination point to regulate the rate at which packets are released from said output.
- Claim 5. (Original) A transmission device as defined in claim 4, wherein said control unit is operative to process said data structure in conjunction with successive acknowledgement messages received from the destination point in order to determine whether packets forwarded to the destination point have not been received at the destination point.
- Claim 6. (Original) A transmission device as defined in claim 5, wherein if at least one packet has not been received at the destination point, said control unit is operative to reduce a rate of release of the packets from said output.
- Claim 7. (Original) A transmission device as defined in claim 6, wherein said control unit is operative to progressively increase a rate of release of the packets from said output until a packet is not received at the destination point.
- Claim 8. (Original) A method for controlling the flow of an aggregate traffic stream between a transmission device

and a destination point, the aggregate traffic stream being comprised of a plurality of packets having respective identifiers allowing to distinguish one packet from another, said transmission device comprising:

- an input for receiving the aggregate traffic streams;
- an output for forwarding the aggregate traffic streams to the destination point;
- said method comprising regulating a rate at which packets are released from said output at least in part in dependence upon an acknowledgement message issued at the destination point to notify said transmission device that at least one packet released from said output has been received at the destination point.

Claim 9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the regulation of the rate at which packets are released from said output is performed without adding any data to packets released from said output.

Claim 10. (Original) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said acknowledgement message conveys information relative to a packet identifier.

Claim 11. (Original) A method as defined in claim 10, comprising recording the identifiers of packets released at said output for forwarding to the destination point in a data structure, and processing said data structure in conjunction with successive acknowledgement messages received from the destination point to regulate the rate at which packets are released from said output.

Claim 12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, comprising

processing said data structure in conjunction with successive acknowledgement messages received from the destination point in order to determine whether packets forwarded to the destination point have not been received at the destination point.

Claim 13. (Original) A method as defined in claim 12, wherein if at least one packet has not been received at the destination point, said method comprises reducing a rate of release of the packets from said output.

Claim 14. (Original) A method as defined in claim 13, wherein said method comprises the step of progressively increasing a rate of release of the packets from said output until a packet is not received at the destination point.

Claims 15-35. (Withdrawn)

Claim 36. (Original) A transmission device for forwarding aggregate traffic streams towards a destination point, an aggregate traffic stream being comprised of a plurality of packets including respective identifiers allowing to distinguish one packet from another, said transmission device comprising:

- input means for receiving the aggregate traffic streams in the transmission device;
- output means for releasing the aggregate traffic streams from the transmission device toward the destination point;
- control means having an input for receiving an acknowledgement message issued from the destination point to notify said transmission device that a certain packet released from said output means has been received at the destination

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point, said control unit being operative to regulate a rate at which packets are released from said output means at least in part in dependence upon said acknowledgement message.

Claims 37-38. (Withdrawn)